THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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The Cleveland Museum of Art Opens MetaScape March 16

New Contemporary Exhibition Offers Remarkable Views of Today's Landscapes

CLEVELAND (Feb. 28, 2003) —The first presentation in a new gallery space devoted to the installation of works by today's most adventurous contemporary artists, **MetaScape** will open March 16 and will remain on view through June 15, 2003. Admission to the museum and this exhibition is free.

MetaScape, will feature the work of four artists who approach the traditional premise of the landscape in radical ways. Julie Mehretu, Benjamin Edwards, Torben Giehler and Yutaka Sone represent a new generation of artists whose collective vision has been informed by revolutions in digital technology, mass media, and commodity culture.

"Visitors to **MetaScape** will be fascinated by the artist's technical finesse and the emotional power their works transmit," notes Jeffrey D. Grove, Ph.D., the museum's curator of contemporary art. "These three monumental paintings and one unbelievable sculpture are evidence that the landscape tradition in art has not been diminished by information technology and the digital revolution, but rather enriched by it."

The artists' techniques are varied and each individual follows a unique approach to traditional methods. Julie Mehretu layers Mylar, vellum, paper, ink and paint to create map-like vortexes of explosive energy. Benjamin Edwards collapses multiple levels of time and space into deliriously animated paintings of cities around the world. Torben Giehler's enormous topographical paintings are based on digital alterations to his own drawings. And Yutaka Sone translates the confusing gridlock of the Los Angeles freeway system into a strikingly beautiful marble sculpture.

In a related event, The Contemporary Art Society of the Cleveland Museum of Art will host a forum featuring **MetaScape** artist Benjamin Edwards as well as Gregory Crewdson and Nikki S. Lee. The forum, moderated by Beacon Cultural Project Director, David Ross is entitled: ***Medium is Not the Message: Art in a Post-Media Era*** and will take place **Saturday, April 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Gartner Auditorium**. Tickets are $25, $15 for CMA and Contemporary art Society members and FREE to students and faculty with identification. Call (216) 421-7050 or 1-888-CMA-0033 or buy online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

MetaScape artist Torben Giehler will also give a free talk on his work **Friday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall**.

The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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